

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a decorative aquatic waterfall as found in residential gardens or the like having an impervious liner defining a sump and confining a quantity of water within the sump, a filtration system comprising:

a skimmer basin located within said sump and adapted to receive surface water into said basin from the sump;

a debris guard within said skimmer basin;

a cover affixed over a major portion of said skimmer basin;

a perforated conduit disposed along the bottom of said sump;

a quantity of filter rock filling said sump externally of said basin and overlying said cover and said perforated conduit; and

a pump in communication with said basin and pumping water from said basin and said perforated conduit to a airative return path to the sump.

2. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said return path is via an artifical waterfall.

3. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said return path comprises a fountain disposed above said sump.

4. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said filter rock is sized such that living aquatic plants may be rooted therein.

5. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 further comprising hydroponic plants rooted in said filter rock.

6. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said filter rock is dimensionally larger than any apertures in said perforated conduit.
7. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said skimmer basin includes a rigid support for said catch net.
8. A filtration system for an ornamental system containing water comprising:
 - a skimmer basin in sump containing said water having an inlet at the surface of the water therein;
 - a pump in communication with said skimmer basin having an intake from the bottom of said sump and an outlet discharging to an aeration device; and
 - natural filtration media filling said secondary pool above water level and surrounding said skimmer basin.
9. A filtration system as defined in claim 8 wherein said natural filtration media comprises a plurality of non-reactive rocks having at least one aquatic plant rooted therein.
10. A filtration system as defined in claim 9 wherein said aeration device is an artificial waterfall.
11. A filtration system as defined in claim 9 wherein said aerator is a fountain.
12. A filtration system as defined in claim 8 including a debris guard disposed within said skimmer basin above said pump intake.